

**Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
Arts Committee Meeting
January 11, 2010
Hartford, Connecticut**

Present: Carolyn Cicchetti in at 1:20 pm, Betty Hale, Dan Heffernan, Paul Pozzi, Michael Price, Clem Roy in at 1:28 pm, Rita Schmidt, Ted Yudain.

Absent: Ann Sheffer, Walter Fiederowicz, Philip Eliasoph

Staff: An-Ming Truxes, John Cusano, Bonnie Koba, Lourdes Rivera (recording)

Call to Order

Ted Yudain called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 21, 2009 were approved.

Motion: Paul Pozzi

Second: Betty Hale

Unanimous approval

Report from the Committee Chair

Arts Committee meetings for 2010 will coincide with scheduled full board meetings.

Ted Yudain, along with Ann Sheffer and Philip Eliasoph, met with Ryan Odinak (executive director of Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County and member of the Connecticut Arts Alliance) to explore how CCT board members can assist in facilitating communications with elected officials about CCT.

Report from the Arts Division Director

The new “Matters of Pattern” gallery exhibit will run through March 5. The opening event will be on Feb 4 from 4:30 to 6:30. As part of the Hartford region’s Community Threads, quilts are on display in the four glass cases at Bradley International Airport. CCT and Bradley co-manage the glass cases named Connecticut Cultural Gallery.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies collects information from state arts agencies and publishes the Legislative Appropriations Annual Survey. The 2010 survey was released last week.

- In the aggregate, SAAs lost about \$54 million in legislative appropriation or about 16.5%.
- 37 SAAs reported decreases in their FY 2010 budgets. Most significant decrease occurred in Michigan (80.5%) and Florida (65.1%). The Arts Division lost about 54% of its program budget – not counting line items.
- Excluding line items, Connecticut ranks #19 in per capita spending.
- Including line items, Connecticut ranks #10.

As a national service organization, NASAA helps SAAs address the economic crisis. NASAA's website features a special resource area designed to assist SAAs in this regard. NASAA offers free webinars on timely topics. On January 22, there will be a webinar on Artists and the Recession. We have invited LAAs to join the webinar at CCT.

An-Ming shared statistics and pie charts relating to 2008-2009 Organizational Support Grants to 125 organizations for which final report data is available.

The NEA recently released its latest *Report on Public Participation in the Arts*. Between 2002 and 2008, statistics showed a significant decline in theater, museum and concert attendance. The Pacific and New England areas lead in art museum or gallery attendance. The Pacific and New England regions lead in jazz concert attendance. Adults from CT, MN and NY lead in musical play attendance. The full report and executive summary are available on the NEA website.

CCT is placing greater emphasis on service and professional development assisting cultural organizations, local arts agencies, schools and artists to develop skills, tools as well as relationships they need to succeed. CCT is partnering with foundations and other entities to provide services. Two examples are:

- Our partnership with the Tremaine Foundation to provide three professional practices workshops for visual artists March 6, April 10 and May 1.
- Our partnership with Young Audiences/VSA arts affiliate on the June 2010 exhibition of artwork by artists with disabilities in the CCT gallery.

ACTION ITEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Connecticut Artists Collection – An-Ming Truxes

Approved the FY2010 Budget for the Connecticut Artists Collection in the amount of \$200,000.

Motion: Rita Schmidt

Second: Paul Pozzi

Unanimous approval

Connecticut Artists Collection – An-Ming Truxes

Approved that Andrea Miller-Keller replace Nancy Stula as Committee member to the Connecticut Artists Collection Committee.

Motion: Dan Heffernan

Second: Betty Hale

Unanimous approval

Arts Presentation Grants - An-Ming Truxes

Approved 54 grants totaling \$57,629 for the second round of the Arts Presentation Grant Program.

Motion: Paul Pozzi
Second: Rita Schmidt
Unanimous approval

Other Business

Bonnie Koba updated the committee on Arts in Education program and activities.

- Streamlined partnership with HOT Schools.
- Created Leadership Grants to share best practices in HOT Schools.
- Appointed a HOT School focus group to collaborate with Long Wharf Theater on deepening its educational programs, providing a model for other collaborative school/organization partnerships.
- Designed and began to implement a pilot teaching artist (TA) mentor program that will strengthen TA services within the state and serve as a model for other New England states.
- Provided professional development for all *Directory* Teaching Artists and outreach to Young Audiences of Connecticut, VSA Arts affiliate, and Artists Collective (Hartford).

Education staff is serving on Hartford Public School committees to address the school system's achievement gap. Activities include a site visit to Big Thought in Dallas, TX.

Bonnie Koba was recently elected to co-chair the Arts Education Advisory Group of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm
Motion: Dan Heffernan
Second: Rita Schmidt
Unanimous approval